

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 748
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Arthur L. Walker, Jr., the
President of Motlow State Community College,
upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arthur L. Walker, Jr., is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for three years as the President of Motlow State Community College; he was named the fourth President of the Lynchburg college on January 3, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker, who has been employed with the school for eighteen years, will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2006; prior to being named President, he served Motlow for two years as Vice President for Academic Affairs, for eleven years as Director of the Fayetteville Center, and for one year as an Instructor of Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker is renowned for his efforts to move Motlow State Community College forward in the areas of student access, capital projects, and fundraising; during his tenure as President, the college has expanded course scheduling and online classes, entered into a partnership with Tennessee Tech University to provide the 2+2 Elementary Education Program, facilitated the implementation of the common general education core, and significantly increased enrollment in the Dual Enrollment Program; and

WHEREAS, his prowess at fundraising enabled the college to garner the needed support for the construction of a free-standing building in Smyrna and the expansion of the McMinville Center and enabled major renovations to the Nisbett Center and the Forrester Center; Dr. Walker further supported the continuing initiative to provide for a new library on the Moore County campus; and

WHEREAS, during the 2004-2005 school year, Motlow College ranked first in fundraising among the Tennessee Board of Regents' nineteen four-year and two-year institutions and collected its second-highest score in performance funding from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, scoring 98 out of 100 points; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bridgeport, Alabama, Dr. Walker earned an Associate of Arts degree from Okaloosa-Walton Community College, a bachelor's degree from Athens State University, a master's degree from Troy State University, and a doctorate from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining Motlow in 1988, he spent twenty-six years serving in the United States Air Force, from which he retired in 1988 at the rank of Major; he earned many distinguished honors during his military career, including the National Defense Medal; three Air Force Meritorious Service Medals; four Air Force Commendation Medals; Honors Recognition in Squadron Officer School; and was named both a First Honor Graduate and a Distinguished Graduate of Officer Training School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club, the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce, and several statewide higher education committees, and is a valued member of the Board of Directors of American City Bank; and

WHEREAS, he is also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; he is most grateful for the love and continued support of his wife, Rosa, and their daughter, Angela; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Walker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his community; he exhibits a fair-minded, democratic leadership style, remaining positive and open-minded while concerning himself with the good of the whole, and striving to be a source of support for his students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Art Walker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Art Walker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors and offer our gratitude for his many years of dedication and service to Motlow State Community College.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.